DAVID HINE

GERMAN ERRAMOUSPE

NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD™

AFTERMATH #3

AVATAR™

DAVID HINE story
GERMAN ERRAMOUSPE artwork
DIGIKORE STUDIOS color
RAULO CACERES all other covers

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WILLIAM CHRISTENSEN editor in chief
MARK SEIFERT creative director
JIM KUHORIC managing editor
DAVID MARKS director of events
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WHAT A DAY! SERIOUSLY... *WHAT A FUCKING DAY!*

I KNEW THINGS WERE GOING TO GO HORRIBLY WRONG WITH THIS VACATION, EVEN BEFORE WE STEPPED OUT OF THE ELEVATOR INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE UNDEAD VERSION OF *GUNFIGHT AT THE OK CORRAL.*

I GUESS IT WASN'T STRICTLY A GUNFIGHT. THE ZOMBIES DIDN'T HAVE GUNS...BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. THERE WAS SHOOTING, AND BLOOD AND GUTS AND DEAD PEOPLE.

LOTS OF DEAD PEOPLE.

IF IT WAS THE OK CORRAL INSIDE THE HOTEL, OUTSIDE ON THE STREET IT WAS LOOKING MORE LIKE CUSTER'S LAST STAND.

AND ALL I COULD THINK WAS 'I NEVER WANTED TO COME ON THIS STUPID TRIP ANYWAY.'

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO 'BRING US TOGETHER AS A FAMILY'. THAT'S A LAME QUOTE FROM MOM BY THE WAY. THESE DAYS, SINCE SHE GOT JESUS IN HER LIFE, SHE HAS A THING ABOUT HEALING THE WOUNDS, FORGIVENESS, ALL THAT SHIT.

ME AND CONNIE HAVE NOT BEEN ON GOOD TERMS WITH MOM...

...NOT SINCE NINE YEARS AGO, WHEN SHE KILLED OUR DAD...

NINETEEN-SIXTY-EIGHT. DAD WAS AT WORK WHEN THE NEWS CAME THROUGH THAT THE UNDEAD DISEASE HAD HIT CHICAGO.

ENGLEWOOD
JACKSON PK

SUBWAY

THESE WERE THE LAST IMAGES RECORDED BY OUR CAMERAMAN OUTSIDE THE STATE STREET SUBWAY STATION.

THE SUBWAY SYSTEM HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN WHILE POLICE AND MILITARY SECURE THE AREA.

MOM, ISN'T THAT WHERE DAD WORKS?

IS DADDY GOING TO GET EATEN BY THE ZOMBIES?

DON'T BE STUPID, WAYNE. YOU'RE SUCH A D--

SOME OF THE SCENES IN THIS REPORT MAY BE DISTURBING TO YOUNGER VIEWERS AND THOSE OF A NERVOUS DISPOSITION.

MOM SENT US TO BED, BUT I DIDN'T SLEEP. WHEN I HEARD DAD COME HOME IT WAS AFTER MIDNIGHT.

HONEY, ARE YOU OKAY? I WAS WORRIED SICK.

I'M FINE.

THEY CLOSED THE SUBWAY. IT WAS HELL FINDING A CAB.

ARE YOU SURE? YOU LOOK-

--I SAID I'M FINE!

I JUST NEED TO TAKE A SHOWER. YOU GO ON TO BED.

TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.

NOTHING HAPPENED.

OKAY. OKAY.

I-- I SAW IT. I WAS THERE.

OH, BABY.

IT WAS HORRIBLE. I THOUGHT-- I'VE SEEN THEM ON THE NEWS--THE PHOTOS, THE TV FOOTAGE-- BUT I HAD NO IDEA--

THE SMELL-- THE GODAWFUL PUTRID STINK OF THEM--

"I COULD SMELL IT BEFORE THE TRAIN HAD STOPPED MOVING."

"WHEN THE DOORS OPENED THERE WAS THIS TIDAL WAVE OF ROTTING MEAT. SOME OF THEM WERE GROANING, OR MAKING WET SUCKING SOUNDS."

"IT WAS LIKE-- THIS IS DISGUSTING, BUT I CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD-- IT SOUNDED LIKE A HORDE OF ARTHRITIC OLD MEN BEATING OFF IN AN ABATTOIR."

"I TURNED AND RAN.

"A LOT OF PEOPLE PANICKED. THEY WERE FALLING OVER ONE ANOTHER, GETTING BUNCHED UP AT THE EXIT.

"I WAS LUCKY. THE GHOULS DIDN'T COME AFTER ME.

"I RAN THE OTHER WAY. TO THE FRONT OF THE TRAIN.

"GOT AWAY CLEAN."

"I WENT INTO THE TUNNEL. I FIGURED THE SAFEST PLACE TO BE WAS AWAY FROM THE PLATFORM.

"I FOUND AN EMERGENCY EXIT.

"IT CAME OUT ON STREET LEVEL. EVERYONE WAS GETTING THE HELL OUT. I JUST SLIPPED IN AMONG THEM.

"THE COPS WERE HOLDING EVERYONE WHO WAS ON THE PLATFORM, BUT NO ONE KNEW I HAD BEEN DOWN THERE."

THE EMERGENCY LEGISLATION SAYS THEY HAVE TO DO THAT. ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE HAD CONTACT.

I DIDN'T *HAVE* ANY CONTACT.

THEY DO TESTS. IF YOU'RE CLEAN THEY LET YOU GO.

HOW DO WE *KNOW* THAT? MAYBE THEY JUST EXECUTE EVERYONE TO PLAY IT SAFE.

THAT'S CRAZY.

YOU HEAR STORIES.

WHAT ABOUT THE SCRATCH ON YOUR ARM? I SAW YOU IN THE BATHROOM.

IT'S NOTHING. I SNAGGED IT ON A NAIL OR SOMETHING. IT WAS DARK IN THE TUNNEL.

WHY THE BLEACH?

SO I DON'T GET TETANUS.

JESUS! WHAT THE FUCK IS ***WRONG*** WITH YOU?

MOM SAID LATER-- WHEN SHE WAS TRYING TO JUSTIFY WHAT SHE DID-- SHE SAID SHE KNEW HE WAS LYING. WHO USES DOMESTIC BLEACH ON A SCRATCH? BUT SHE PLAYED ALONG--

OKAY HONEY, GET SOME SLEEP.

SHE SAID HE WAS SHAKING, SWEATING.

SHE SAID SHE DID IT FOR US--

HOMELAND SECURITY HOTLINE. THIS CALL IS CONFIDENTIAL. HOW MAY I HELP YOU?

--TO SAVE US FROM HIM--

GET DRESSED AND STAY QUIET. WE HAVE TO LEAVE, RIGHT NOW.

I WANT TO REPORT A SUSPECTED INFECTION.

--FROM OUR OWN FATHER.

PHYLLIS?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

PHYLLIS! COME BACK HERE!

I HEARD IT COMING. THE BLADES CHOPPING THE AIR. I WANTED TO WARN HIM, TELL HIM TO STAY IN THE HOUSE, WHERE HE WOULD BE SAFE.

GET DOWN ON THE GROUND!

ON THE GROUND NOW, OR WE WILL OPEN FIRE!

EVER SINCE THAT NIGHT--

--I'VE HATED THE SOUND OF HELICOPTERS.

I GUESS I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THEY ARRIVED WHEN THEY DID. IF THEY HADN'T, I WOULDN'T BE HERE TO TELL THE TALE.

ZOMBIES ARE NOT THAT TOUGH TO KILL. THEY DON'T RUN AND THEY DON'T HIDE, THEY JUST KEEP COMING. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BLOW AWAY WHAT'S LEFT OF THE BRAIN.

OF COURSE YOU NEED WEAPONS, PREFERABLY GUNS.

THERE ARE CIVILIANS BEHIND THAT PATROL CAR.

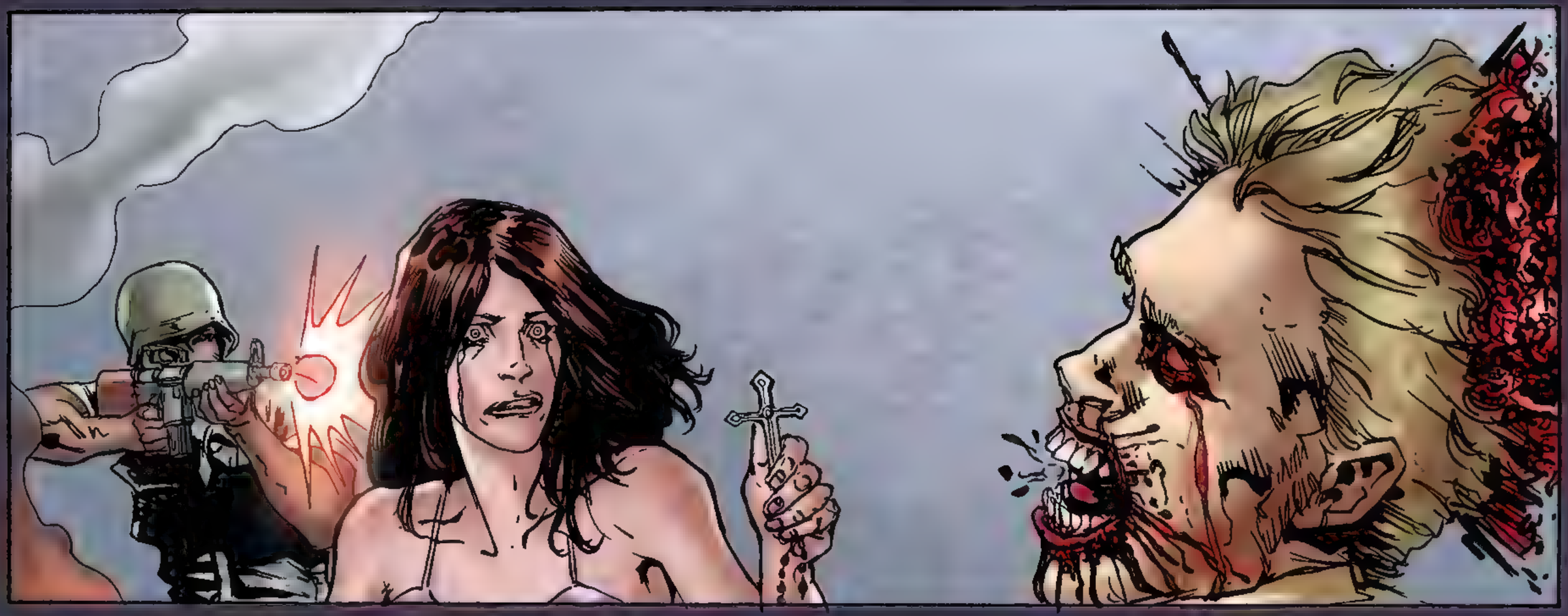
I SEE THEM.

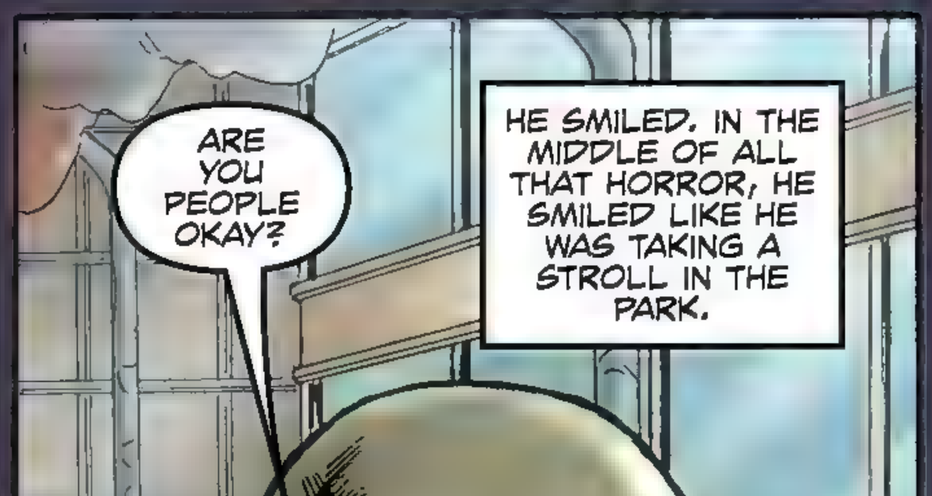
WE HAD MOM AND HER ROSARY.

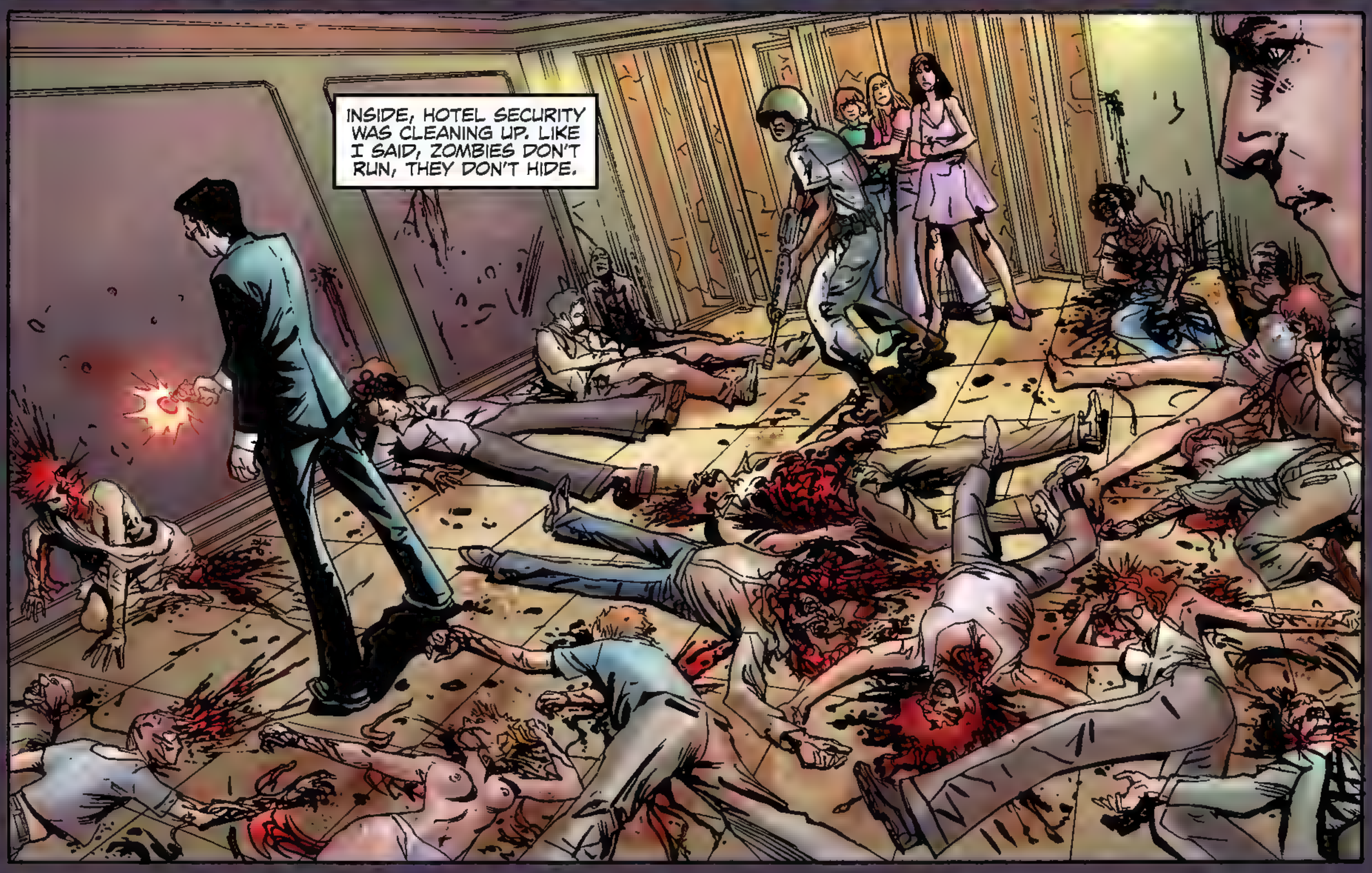
NO!

STAY AWAY FROM MY CHILDREN!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE THOUGHT SHE WAS DOING. THESE WERE NOT ***VAMPIRES*** FOR FUCK'S SAKE.




ARE YOU PEOPLE OKAY?
HE SMILED. IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THAT HORROR, HE SMILED LIKE HE WAS TAKING A STROLL IN THE PARK.


INSIDE, HOTEL SECURITY WAS CLEANING UP. LIKE I SAID, ZOMBIES DON'T RUN, THEY DON'T HIDE.

EXCEPT-- I'M GUESSING HERE, BUT GIVEN WHAT HAPPENED LATER, THIS HAS TO BE WHAT HAPPENED-- ONE OF THOSE WALKING CORPSES HAD ENOUGH OF ITS SURVIVAL INSTINCT LEFT TO HIDE--

--OR MAYBE IT WASN'T FULLY TURNED.

MAYBE IT WAS STILL HUMAN, LIKE MY FATHER--

--TRYING DESPERATELY TO STAY ALIVE, TO AVOID BEING PUT DOWN LIKE A RABID DOG.

WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS COMING. WE BELIEVED THE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE HOTEL'S P.A. SYSTEM--

THIS BUILDING HAS BEEN SEARCHED AND CLEARED BY THE MILITARY.

RIGHT. AND YESTERDAY THE ***WHOLE CITY*** WAS A SAFE ZONE.

WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE SILVER BULLET HOTEL AND CASINO HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED A SAFE ZONE.

YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO TRIED TO STOP THE GUNFIGHT THIS MORNING.

I'M THE GIRL.

I HEARD ABOUT THAT. THAT WAS COOL. YOU'RE SENATOR PAXMAN'S DAUGHTER.

THAT TOO.

YOU HAVE A PRETTY EXCITING LIFE.

YEAH, IT'S NON-STOP FUN AND FROLICS.

HOW ABOUT YOU? ANYTHING EXCITING EVER HAPPEN TO THE GOD-FEARING ALL-AMERICAN FAMILY?

THE ZOMBIE SQUAD KILLED MY DAD.

'THE ZOMBIE SQUAD KILLED MY DAD.' HMMM, COOL SONG TITLE. I COULD WRITE A LYRIC TO THAT.

ARE YOU A MUSICIAN?

GUITAR. AND I SING.

IN A BAND?

IN A FUCKING CHURCH CHOIR.

I HAD A BAND. IN L.A.

GUESS WE BROKE UP.

WHAT MUSIC ARE YOU INTO?

UH-- I DUNNO-- UH-- THE EAGLES, I GUESS.

THE EAGLES...

KID, YOU ARE *DEAD* TO ME.

STUPID. FUCKING. IDIOT.

JUST BEFORE SUNSET, THEY STARTED BURNING THE CORPSES.

THE DEAD AND THE UNDEAD ALL HEAPED UP TOGETHER. NO FUNERAL, NO DIGNITY, NO RECOGNITION THAT ONLY A DAY AGO, THESE WERE LIVING, BREATHING HUMAN BEINGS.

MOM, YOU DON'T WANT TO WATCH THIS.

I KNOW YOU'VE NEVER FORGIVEN ME AND YOU'RE RIGHT.

I *DID* KILL YOUR FATHER.

DADDY!

LET ME GO! THEY'RE GOING TO SHOOT DADDY!

NO, WAYNE. THEY WON'T HURT HIM.

THEY JUST HAVE TO TEST HIM TO FIND OUT IF HE'S SICK.

TORCH HIM.

MAYBE HE WASN'T INFECTED AT ALL.

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TRUSTED HIM.

YOU'D BEST HURRY ON INSIDE NOW MA'AM. THERE'S A CURFEW IN FORCE. NO CIVILIANS ON THE STREETS.

HOLY HECK, MYRA, WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT?

MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN ATLANTA.

SAM WACHOWSKI, YOU ARE ALWAYS TRYING TO RAIN ON MY PARADE.

WE'RE IN VEGAS AND WE ARE GOING TO HAVE FUN, ZOMBIES OR NO ZOMBIES.

WE HAVE A RESERVATION UNDER WACHOWSKI. MY WIFE HAS HAD A LITTLE LUCK AND WE'D LIKE TO UPGRADE--

--GIVE US A HONEYMOON SUITE.

YES MA'AM, I THINK I CAN DO THAT FOR YOU.

ARE THE SLOTS STILL RUNNING?

THE SLOT MACHINES, ROULETTE TABLE, BLACKJACK, POKER.

WE'RE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THINGS RUNNING AS NORMAL UNTIL THIS SITUATION HAS BLOWN OVER.

YOU SEE, SAM. I SAID YOU WERE FUSSING OVER NOTHING.

WE'RE EVEN RUNNING OUR 'TRIBUTE TO ELVIS' SHOW TONIGHT.

A TRIBUTE OF THE KING

TONIGHT IN THE STARLIGHT ROOM

OH, HONEY, YOU KNOW I ALWAYS DREAMED OF SEEING ELVIS PLAY VEGAS.

THE KING HAS PASSED ON HONEY. THESE ARE JUST A BUNCH OF ELVIS IMPERSONATORS.

WE LIKE TO CALL THEM 'EMULATORS'.

THEY'RE ONE HUNDRED PER CENT PROFESSIONAL. VERY RESPECTFUL--

"--VERY DIGNIFIED.

WHERE THE FUCK IS MY WIG?!

"WE HAVE FOUR EMULATORS, EACH REPRESENTING A CLASSIC STAGE IN THE KING'S CAREER.

NO IDEA. YOU KNOW WHERE HIS RUG IS JERRY?

MAYBE THE MAKE-UP GIRL HAS IT. WHERE IS SHERRI ANYHOW?

LOOKS LIKE SHERRI STOLE YOUR WIG, BIG BOY.

"YOU'LL BELIEVE EACH ONE OF THEM IS THE REAL THING UP THERE ON STAGE.

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO PERFORM *AU NATUREL*.

FUCK YOU, ASSHOLES!

I KNOW WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS. YOU'RE JUST ABOUT SICK WITH ENVY BECAUSE I GET ALL THE LOVE FROM THE FANS FOR MY 'LOVE ME TENDER.'

"PUCKERING HIS LIPS AND SHAKING HIS HIPS.

"YOU HAVE MY PERSONAL GUARANTEE--"

HUKK--

"--YOU'RE IN FOR A NIGHT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET."